



# NEWS RELEASE

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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### Base to host Air Force 50th Anniversary stamp ceremony

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**KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M.** – Kirtland will host a ceremony to mark the issuance of the 32-cent Air Force 50th Anniversary stamp Friday at 11 a.m. at the base theater.

The ceremony will be followed by the cancellation of the stamps at a temporary post office at the theater. There will be a special cancellation stamp through the U.S. Postmaster that is specific to Kirtland and commemorates the special birthday.

At the ceremony will be Albuquerque Postmaster Eric Martinez and retired Lt. Col. Gordon A. Redtfeldt, a World War II prisoner of war who will trace the history of the B-17 "Pride of New Mexico." A scale model of that Flying Fortress will be presented to the Albuquerque Aviation Department and will be added to the Cavalcade of Wings collection at the Albuquerque International Sunport.

Thursday marks the Air Force's 50th birthday. On Sept. 18, 1947, the Air Force became an independent service with a status coequal with the Army and Navy.

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**Note to editors:** For more information, contact Senior Airman Paul Gritton, (505) 846-4238/5991. Media interested in covering the ceremony should report to Wyoming gate and proceed south to F Street. Turn right on F and head west until you pass the gas station. Then turn left into the mini-mall parking area and the base theater is up on the right.

